



FILE

SH

cc: Sir P. Cradock.

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Economic Summits: Australian Participation

I attach the text of a letter from the Prime Minister of Australia in reply to Mrs. Thatcher's recent letter to him about Australian participation in the London Economic Summit.

Mr. Hawke sets out the argument, on grounds of geographical balance, for Australian participation, but seems to envisage, in his final paragraph, that the question should be examined at another time, not now.

You will have seen Canberra telegrams numbers 225 and 226.

BF // I should be grateful for a draft reply to Mr. Hawke's letter.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Mr. Peretz (H.M. Treasury).

A. J. COLES

29 March, 1984

VC



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

29 March, 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 29 March conveying to her the text of a letter from the Prime Minister of Australia about Australian participation in Economic Summits.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency Mr. A. R. Parsons

Subject

cc Maslow  
OPS



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T49/84

PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

29 March 1984

*Dear Margaret,*

Thank you for letting me know the outcome of discussions on the question of Australian participation in the London Economic Summit.

I raised the question of participation with you in New Delhi mainly because of suggestions made over a period by some member countries that there would be merit in achieving more of a balance, in geographic terms, at Summit meetings; and in this context that Australia, as an industrialised country in the Asia-Pacific region, could contribute positively to Summit discussions.

The notion that if Australia were invited to attend Summit meetings, Summit membership would have to be opened also to other countries seems to me to overlook this idea of geographic balance, as much as it overlooks that in GDP terms for OECD countries Australia ranks next after member countries with the exception only of Spain. I would have thought that as Spain is an applicant to join the European Community, with its European interests already well represented by the present membership, justification could easily be found for any invitation to participate being confined to Australia. Australia's economic development, its importance in terms of resources and its commitment to Western political ideals and principles, would be added arguments for regarding Australian participation as a separate issue, not calling for an opening up of membership to other countries.

I hardly need add that Australia maintains very close contact with countries in its region, and any contribution from Australia to Economic Summit discussions would be founded in this wider perspective.

2.

I hope that the question of Australian participation at future meetings can be examined at another time; and that in this question, Australia can rely on Britain's continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

*Russell Howard*  
*Bob Hawke*

(R.J.L. Hawke)

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
Prime Minister of Great Britain,  
LONDON. SW1.  
United Kingdom



CONFIDENTIAL

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

AUSTRALIA HOUSE  
STRAND  
LONDON WC2B 4LA  
01-438 8000

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

29 March 1984

SERIAL No; T49/84 cc MASTER  
ops.

*My dear Prime Minister,*

Mr Hawke has asked me to pass to you the following text of a letter concerning Australian participation in the London Economic Summit:

Begins:

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for letting me know the outcome of discussions on the question of Australian participation in the London Economic Summit.

I raised the question of participation with you in New Delhi mainly because of suggestions made over a period by some member countries that there would be merit in achieving more of a balance, in geographic terms, at Summit Meetings; and in this context that Australia, as an industrialised country in the Asia-Pacific region, could contribute positively to summit discussions.

The notion that if Australia were invited to attend Summit Meetings, summit membership would have to be opened also to other countries seems to me to overlook this idea of geographic balance, as much as it overlooks that in GDP terms for OECD countries Australia ranks next after member countries with the exception only of Spain. I would have thought that as Spain is an applicant to join the European Community, with its European interests already well represented by the present membership, justification could easily be found for any invitation to participate being confined to Australia. Australia's economic development, its importance in terms of resources and its commitment to western political ideals and principles, would be added arguments for regarding Australian participation as a separate issue, not calling for an opening up of membership to other countries.

.../2

CONFIDENTIAL

2.

I hardly need add that Australia maintains very close contact with countries in its region, and any contribution from Australia to Economic Summit discussions would be founded in this wider perspective.

I hope that the question of Australian participation at future meetings can be examined at another time; and that in this question, Australia can rely on Britain's continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Kind regards,

(Sgd.) Bob Hawke

Ends.

The original copy of this letter will be sent on as soon as it is received.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Parsons*

A.R. PARSONS

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1